

Citizen Working Group -Zones “F” (Downtown/Groat) + “G” (Stony Plain Rd)

MINUTES

Meeting # 9		Location:
Date: May 5, 2021		Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Members		Attendance
Zone “F”		
Andrew MacIsaac	Downtown Edmonton Community League	
Derek Macdonald	Oliver Community League	
Jared Candlish	Oliver Community League	
Derrick Forsythe	Queen Mary Park Community League	
Karen VanDerLaan	Queen Mary Park Community League	
Robert Summers	Westmount Community League	
Jeff McLaren	124 Street Business Association	
Sarah Proudlock	124 Street Business Association	
Dan Young	City Market Downtown	
Cadence Bergman	Edmonton Chamber of Commerce	
Dave Rogowsky	First Capital Realty - Brewery District & Long Street	
Nadia Meyer	First Capital Realty - Brewery District & Long Street	
Adam Brahim	Altus Group / BentallGreenOak - Oliver Square	
Tony Nunes	Altus Group / BentallGreenOak - Oliver Square	
Susan Radford	Edmonton City Centre	
Ian O’Donnell	Edmonton Downtown Business Association	
Kajsa Duke	Public at Large	
Thomas Oster	Public at Large	
Zone “G”		
Peter Doell	West Jasper / Sherwood Community League	
Currently unassigned	Glenora Community League	
Allan Bly	Grovenor Community League	
Rod Matheson	Crestwood Community League	
Tony Lovell	Canora Community League	
Barb Busse	Britannia Youngstown Community League	
Todd Janes	Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association	
Salim Keshwani	Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association	
Christine Lefebvre	Old Glenora Conservation Association	
Corie Martin	School sector - Glenora School Parent Advisory Council	
Dinah Plamondon	Public at Large	
Taylor Soroka	Jasper Place Wellness Centre	
Jack Stuempel	Community Relations Advisor (Facilitator)	✓

Guests		
Mariam Ibrahim	Communications Advisor, Valley Line West	
Hazel Battad	Valley Line West Project Team	
Eva Cheung	Valley Line West Project Manager	

1.	Welcome & introductions	Action by:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting participants introduced themselves. 	
2.	Confirmation of agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was adopted as circulated. 	
3.	Previous minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the previous meeting were not ready for circulation. However, it was agreed that if there were significant outstanding action items, they could be addressed at a future meeting. 	
4.	Status of action items (none)	
5.	Project update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Pringle, the City’s Partnerships Manager for Valley Line West, reviewed the progress of the past year, including the results of the procurement process. Marigold Infrastructure Partners (MIP) has been selected to finish design, and to build and finance the construction. Procurement of 40 light rail vehicles (LRVs) for Valley Line West is being done separately. However, the LRVs will be fully integrated with the rest of the system so that the transit user experience for the entire Valley Line LRT from Lewis Farms to Mill Woods will be seamless. The LRVs will be maintained at an expansion of the Gerry Wright operations & maintenance facility at 75th Street and Whitemud Drive. Various early works related to the relocation of utilities have already been carried out. LRT construction is expected to be completed in 2026. Both the City and MIP are committed to applying a “boots on the ground” approach to ensure communities along the alignment are well-informed in advance about construction plans and activities, and that special needs and circumstances are accommodated as much as possible. Members were reminded to sign up for email newsletters, visit the project website (https://www.edmonton.ca/projects_plans/transit/valley-line-west), and that the project phone line 780-496-4874 and email LRTprojects@edmonton.ca are always available for inquiries. For information related to construction, Marigold has established a 24/7 public contact number 780-412-2183 and email address Public@Marigoldinfra.ca. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Major construction-related activities for 2021 will include drilling geotechnical boreholes along the alignment to confirm subsurface conditions, removal of remaining vacant buildings on land purchased by the City, some sewer utility works, foundations for the elevated guideway and the West Edmonton Mall and Misericordia stations, and early earthworks around the Anthony Henday crossing. ● Construction of the West Edmonton Mall station and transit centre requires the establishment of a new temporary transit centre at the north side of the mall, to be in operation by fall 2021. ● Brad Baumle, the construction manager at MIP, briefly explained that the design-build team is a partnership between Colas and Parsons. The team is international in scope but also has a long-standing major presence in and around Edmonton. ● MIP is committed to being a good neighbor that will work to reduce disruptions and minimize impacts as much as possible. ● MIP has incentives to minimize traffic impacts, and to retain as many trees as possible while planting upwards of 1800 trees, including varieties that are more suitable for the Edmonton climate. No tree removals are expected along Stony Plain Road this year. ● Currently MIP is busy arranging local suppliers and employment, and preparing final designs for the LRT alignment, roadway/streets, stops and rail systems. Environmental plans and public art planning are also underway. ● Much of the construction focus this year will be on 87 Avenue, with the elevated guideway and stations at Misericordia and West Edmonton Mall. ● Roadwork on Stony Plain Road will likely begin west of Glenora School in 2022, and east of the school in 2023. Toward the downtown area, the roadwork will likely occur in 2024, although some work is also expected in 2022. ● Construction of a replacement bridge on Stony Plain Road over Groat Road will likely begin in the winter of 2022-23 and require a two-year closure. ● Overall, the greatest impact to traffic is expected to occur over the 2022-24 period. ● Group discussion included the concerns of the business community about access and wayfinding during construction, with MIP acknowledging the need for good planning, communication and signage to minimize construction impacts. ● Neighbourhood shortcutting was also discussed. It was noted that MIP’s traffic management measures will require City approval, and neighbourhoods will be reliant on the City’s oversight of notices, closures, signage and other aspects of traffic management. ● Members strongly emphasized the importance of communications with the affected communities, and both City and MIP representatives noted that there will be extensive communications using a variety of channels to share information. ● An updated project booklet is also being prepared for release in the near future. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are special concerns in the vicinity of Glenora school, and MIP was urged to work closely with the school and school council to assure the safety of children. • Previously-expressed local concerns over jughandle navigation and the design of the intersection at 136 Street permitting north-south traffic to cross Stony Plain Road were reiterated. • Members expressed the need for coordination of the Valley Line West project with other City initiatives that will also affect area neighbourhoods. The City’s teams have met and will continue to check in to ensure such coordination occurs. • The project team was also urged to provide significant advance notice of street closures, especially those in business areas that might create temporary opportunities for enhanced foot traffic. Ideas such as this may be pursued further in meetings with the local business associations. • The presentations at the meeting are attached to these minutes. 	
10.	Round Table	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was further discussion about the importance of timely and extensive communications, with it being noted that a broad range of methods will be employed by MIP and the City. • The City and MIP would welcome an opportunity to meet directly with Glenora School and its council. 	
11.	Next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed to target July 28 for the next meeting, again as a combined meeting of groups “F” and “G”. 	

Notes by Jack Stuempel